

## BOOK REVIEW

SEAN CARRINGTON. 2007. **Wild Plants of Barbados**. (ISBN-10: 1405094079, ISBN-13: 978-1405094078, pbk.). MacMillan Caribbean Publishers, Between Towns Road, Oxford, OX4 3PP, United Kingdom. (**Orders:** www.macmillan-caribbean.com, caribben@macmillan.com, +44 (0)1865-405843 fax). \$10.69, 248 pp., color photographs, 8 1/4" × 5 1/2".

This fully revised and updated edition now includes several plant species previously unrecorded for Barbados. This book aims to enable the reader to identify the flowering plants found in the wild in Barbados, plants many people would regard as just bush. 535 plant entries are included, over half with color photographs and clear, precise, and easy-to-follow descriptions for accurate identification. Plants are grouped by Family, identified with the current scientific name and the local common name. Details are provided about the plant's general distribution, its habitat in Barbados, and information relating to its uses.

Botanical terms are explained and illustrated with labeled line drawings and a glossary, both of which are useful for the beginner. A quick and easy method is described for use in the field to help identify the plants. The introduction explains the basics of plant classification and surveys the vegetation types that constitute the plant communities of Barbados. A three-page bibliography, index, and varied appendix are included among the end material.

The first edition published in 1993 had 128 pages detailing 520 plants. A page count comparison is deceptive as the second edition covers only 15 more plants and is a smaller book. The layout is superior as the photographs accompany the plant description, while in the first edition the photographs were in a separate section. This makes the current edition much easier to use.

Highly recommended for public libraries with an interest in the flora of the Caribbean and college and universities with an active botany or plant biology program. Interested individuals will also benefit from this book.

Author Sean Carrington is Professor of Plant Biology at the University of the West Indies, Barbados, carrying out research on the biochemistry of fruit ripening as well as on aspects of Caribbean flora. He is the author of *Wild Plants of the Eastern Caribbean* and lead author of *A-Z of Barbados Heritage*.—Gary L. Jennings, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 East 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.